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# Worldwide Report

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

No. 324



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2 October 1981

# WORLDWIDE REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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BALTIC COMMISSION REPORT: SEA LIFE ENDANGERED

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 15 Aug 81 p 7

[Article by Henrik Ekman]

[Text] International commissions are usually a haven for compromises. The Helsinki Commission for the Protection of the Baltic Sea is no exception. However, the member nations have actually agreed on a description of the situation in this inland sea.

It is an extremely cautious document. No guilty parties are pointed out. Words such as "may" and "partially" are common.

However, this does not alter the fact that the seven nations--Sweden, Finland, the Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, West Germany, and Denmark--have agreed that the situation is critical.

The National Environment Protection Board in Solna is satisfied.

"This is a beginning," division head Arne Hansson said. "We have now managed to agree on what the situation is and this had not been easy. It has taken almost 2 years."

In September the commission's working group will discuss possible measures at its annual conference.

The present report was written by a group in which Lars Thorell of the National Environment Protection Board was the Swedish representative. Various researchers from all member nations participated. Disunity among them was considerably greater than the disunity on the administrative level, Arne Hansson said.

In general, the report confirms the picture with which we are already familiar, albeit in vague generalities.

During the 20th century the oxygen content has dropped to about zero in large portions of the Baltic Sea's deep water. In addition, hydrosulfuric acid has spread, resulting in "wastelands" on the sea bed. The influx of fresh water through the Belts temporarily breathes new life into the depths, but the new animals that appear following slow colonization seem to be less viable.



The phosphate contents have increased by 100 to 300 percent in the deep water in the central Baltic Sea since the 1950's.

Each year 26,000 tons of phosphorus is put into the Baltic Sea by natural means or from industrial emissions.

#### Human Guilt

These changes are collected under the heading "natural and/or human causes." There is no doubt, however, that humans bear the blame for PCB and DDT emissions. The report mentions the all too familiar consequences--the poisoning of eagles and seals.

The report is more cautious, however, when it comes to otters and porpoises--species that have almost completely disappeared from the Baltic Sea: "It is possible that PCB is partly responsible for the decline in other mammal populations in the Baltic Sea, such as otters and porpoises."

It is also clear that the tripling of the zinc and lead and the tenfold increase in mercury and cadmium content in the sediment cannot be blamed on natural phenomena.

Is there anything positive to report?

The DDT contents in sediment and fish have decreased since that substance was banned in most Baltic Sea nations.

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CSO: 5000/2167



# ACTU OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH BODY MAKING GOVERNMENT INROADS

Melbourne THE AGE in English 11 Aug 81 p 24

[Article by Michael Gordon]

[Excerpt] **A**LTHOUGH only three months old, the work of the ACTU/Trades Hall Council occupation health unit is beginning to be noticed by State and Federal Governments.

A union delegation to the State Government in the next two weeks will seek significant changes to draft legislation on safety, health and welfare which has already been hailed by the Government as a major reform.

Representatives of the unit have also appeared before the House of Representatives standing committee on environment and conservation and requested the setting up of a national occupational health and safety office to deal with hazardous chemicals.

The new State legislation is modelled on the British Health and Safety at Work Act which in 1974 laid primary responsibility on employers to provide a healthy and safe workplace.

The most important regulation from the UK act gave union safety representatives paid leave to undergo basic training, powers of inspection and rights to information.

According to the head of the ACTU/THC unit Dr John Mathews, this led to the appointment of more than 150,000 health and safety representatives (about one for every 300 workers) and "transformed the character of British industrial relations".

Says Mathews: "Gone is the emphasis by unions on seeking compensation for victims rather than preventing accidents in the first place. Gone is the propensity to accept unsafe and unhealthy working conditions by negotiating 'danger money' or 'dirt money'."

"Instead, this army of health and safety representatives has transformed the unions into permanent watchdogs ensuring that employers meet their responsibility for providing a healthy and safe workplace in full," he said.

While the Victorian legislation provides for consultation between employers and safety representatives, it does not stipulate that they be members of unions, that they can be appointed in all work places or spell out their rights.

Dr Mathews believes these rights should be de-

tailed in the Act and include power to investigate potential hazards, complaints of employees, carry out regular inspections, receive information and have time off for training.

In a recent address, Dr Mathews said the union movement welcomed the Government's initiative but deplored the narrow scope of the draft legislation.

Dr Mathews outlined a number of other changes that would be sought from the State Government. He said that the THC would be consulting with the ALP to ensure that a bill meeting the council's requirements is introduced in the next Parliament if Labor wins the election.

In the submission to the House of Representatives standing committee inquiry into hazardous chemicals, the unit called for a 'sweeping, overall approach to the problem' through a national occupational health and safety office, which would assume powers to operate a fully comprehensive chemicals licensing scheme for all chemicals, including pesticides and food additives.

It would also:

- Draw up model health and safety regulations for implementation by the States (pending resolution of the constitutional difficulty that prevents the Commonwealth from operating its own health and safety inspectorate.

- Prepare policies to prevent what it called the scourge of occupational cancer, occupational sterility and birth defects, occupational heart disease and other long term problems.

- Frame policies to prevent chemical explosions, transport accidents and dumping and to co-ordinate the community's response when such disasters occur.

CSO: 5000/7586

EDITORIAL EXAMINES EPA POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM

Melbourne THE AGE in English 12 Aug 81 p 13

[Editorial: "Environment's Legal Fog"]

[Text]

THE Environment Protection Authority has tied itself in a nasty knot over control of the State's air emissions. Unable to police its own licences, it has introduced a system whereby those who discharge pollutants monitor themselves. It is a reasonable principle; and perhaps, given the EPA's woeful record on monitoring of air licences, the only way to build an overall picture of the hazardous industrial chemicals which are pumped continuously into the environment. Yet it has two glaring flaws. The first and most obvious is the potential for industry to fiddle its figures. The second is that when the figures do reveal a breach of licence conditions, the EPA can do virtually nothing about it. It cannot prosecute the offender because, under the Environment Protection Act 1970, the figures are self-incriminatory and so inadmissible in court. It cannot make public the information without the consent of the offender. Nor can it collect its own information, for by the time it discovers a breach has occurred, it has passed. All it can do is scold.

This is no way for a pollution watchdog to work. The point is not that clean air is aesthetically desirable — although it is that — but that contaminated air is a danger to public health. Many of the chemicals are poisons. Vinyl chloride monomer (VCM), for example, has been classified as "potentially carcinogenic, mutagenic, teratogenic (monster-producing), highly toxic or highly persistent"; as *The Age* reported this week, accidents at one petro-

chemical complex in Altona have resulted in the unauthorised release of many tonnes of VCM. There have been at least 17 such accidents — what the company calls "excursions" — since 1977, yet the EPA has, neither prosecuted the company (the self-incrimination rule), nor gathered its own evidence. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. The EPA manages each year to test roughly one air licence for every 100 in force; small wonder that the documents are described by critics as "licences to pollute".

The EPA alone cannot unravel the knot. Industry can co-operate—and, with a few familiar exceptions, it does—but the system itself is at fault. The State Government has proved an unreliable ally in the past, yet it must be given the chance to show that it does, in fact, regard the EPA as substantially more than an enfeebled vestige of what was once a policy called the quality of life. More money and staff for monitoring activities is an immediate priority. In the longer term is the EPA's proposal to create a comprehensive grid of monitoring stations. These will provide independent data on air quality, and indicate the areas where contamination recurs. Amendment of the act's self-incrimination clause should be

considered and debated. It is in the Government's interest to have an authority which appears to be doing its job effectively. It is in the community's interest that it should succeed.

CSO: 5000/7586



# VICTORIA LAWYERS CALL FOR PUBLIC PROSECUTION OF POLLUTERS

Melbourne THE AGE in English 24 Aug 81 p 3

[Article by Andrew Bolt]

[Text] The Victorian Law Institute is pushing for changes to allow the public to prosecute polluters when the Environment Protection Authority is unwilling to act.

The institute also wants the State Government to set up an Environment Defenders Office to offer legal aid and advice to individuals who want to take polluters to court.

The secretary of the institute's environmental law section, Mr Kevin Zervos, said individual rights were necessary because the EPA was not an effective environmental watchdog.

Mr Zervos said industry was not taking environmental legislation seriously enough because of the EPA's unwillingness to take offenders to court.

He said the lack of money, facilities and manpower was hampering the authority, and the Government's "new direction" policy was discouraging it from taking the stick to companies allegedly breaching the law.

Because the EPA relied largely on company information and co-operation in monitoring and controlling pollution, it had been forced to act as a mediator rather than an enforcement agency, he said.

Mr Zervos said this was not necessarily bad, but it led to "internal conflict" within the authority when it needed to show its strength. As a result, there were cases where the EPA had failed to act effectively against

an offending company, although it had performed well generally, given its constraints.

"But they are there as an enforcement agency and if the situation arises that a person or company needs to be prosecuted then so be it," Mr Zervos said.

He said that given the EPA's limits the answer was to give individuals the right to prosecute. Individuals currently can only prosecute when a nuisance directly affects or threatens them, and then only with the Attorney-General's consent.

Mr Zervos said the public should be able to act almost as the authority's delegated agents. "If there is a wrong that needs to be righted then it is irrelevant who places the issue before the court for determination," he said.

He said critics of the proposal would argue that it would lead to the courts being flooded with "vexatious litigants" — people too ready to initiate litigation.

"I don't believe the vexatious litigant exists," Mr Zervos said. "But if there are one or two like that, why should the rest of the population be denied the right to go to court?"

"I'm annoyed that as an ordinary member of the community I am denied the right to bring action against an individual or body that is affecting my basic right to enjoyment of the environment."

Mr Zervos said there was no concept in the law as it stood of a person's right to enjoy the environment. He supported the State Labor Party's call for an examination of the EPA and the way environmental legislation was enforced in Victoria.

The EPA needed more strength and more autonomy from Government interference and influence, Mr Zervos said. The EPA's defeat at the hands of the SEC over the Newport power station licence had shown the authority's vulnerability to State Government interference.

BRIEFS

**INDUSTRIAL WASTE SURVEY**--Only 400 of 1550 companies had bothered to respond to the biggest industrial liquid and solid-waste survey undertaken in WA, the Minister for Health, Mr Young, said in the weekend. The bigger companies co-operated, but smaller undertakings were not interested. "I am very disappointed," Mr Young said. "Of the 400 returns to the questionnaire sent out by the Public Health Department, about 100 were blank or did not contain any relevant information." "Some were just marked 'return to sender'." Mr Young said that the survey was undertaken in May for the WA waste disposal committee by his department, the Department of Conservation and Environment and the Metropolitan Water Board at a cost of about \$10,000. "We have not received the back-up we asked for and expected," Mr Young said. "I cannot understand the companies' reluctance." "The information requested was to have been treated in the strictest confidence." "It would have been published in a form that protected such confidentiality." Mr Young said that the survey would have been invaluable in helping determine future policy on ways of protecting underground water supplies and would have helped industry cope with future problems in the most economical manner. The survey was based on a successful similar inquiry in New South Wales. "I can just assume that many companies don't want to tell us of any potentially poisonous wastes they handle and that they'd rather dispose of them at a tip without giving a damn about the future," Mr Young said. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 10 Aug 81 p 27]

**INSECT SPRAY DANGER**--Insect sprays containing a chemical capable of damaging the human nervous system are being sold without adequate warnings, the Australian Consumers Association claimed yesterday. Medical studies had shown the ingredient, dichlorvos, to be highly toxic. If absorbed through the skin or inhaled in large enough doses, it interferes with the transmission of nerve impulses, the association said. Five of the most popular brands of surface insecticides (those usually sprayed about a home for their lethal residual effect on insects) contained dichlorvos, a substance under scrutiny as a possible carcinogen by the National Cancer Institute in the United States. The association said Swedish research had shown significant effects of the substance on the cell structure of plants and bacteria, suggesting it could cause mutations. The National Health and Medical Research Council in Canberra has recommended that plastic resin strips containing the chemical not be used near food or children, but a spokesman said there were no significant dangers if users obeyed instructions. In Sydney, a Consumers Association spokesman said feeble or imprecise instructions on spray cans were a reason for concern. Yet medical experts said if the sprays were not

used in moderate doses they posed a definite health risk. An association spokesman said geneticists in Australia believed that any chemical showing a mutagenic effect on bacteria, as in the Swedish tests, had a 90 per cent chance of causing cancer. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 11 Aug 81 p 3] [Article by Peter Blunden]

MARINE PARK SPAT--The Queensland Government saw the future of the Great Barrier Reef as a few marine parks among oil rigs, the Federal Opposition environment spokesman, Mr Stewart West, said yesterday. He called on the Federal Environment Minister, Mr Wilson, to assert authority over the Queensland Government and declare the Cairns section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In an effort to overcome opposition from Queensland, the Federal Government set up a ministerial council, comprising two state and two federal ministers. A spokesman for Mr Wilson said yesterday sensitive negotiations had been under way and it was hoped the council could meet as soon as possible. Mr West said yesterday the Commonwealth should overrule Queensland objections to adding the Cairns section to the Capricornia section, which had been declared. If Mr Wilson was not willing to do this, he should admit that his government had capitulated to the wishes of the Queensland Government," he said. "The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, and Mr Wilson once again have been made fools of by the recalcitrant Queensland Government," Mr West said. "From time to time, Mr Wilson makes noises about getting tough over boundaries of the park and saying that the park should be declared in the not too distant future." "But, there is no hope of an imminent declaration under such an obviously timid and inconsistent federal minister as Mr Wilson." [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 13 Aug 81 p 18]

ENVIRONMENTAL WATCHDOG GROUP--The Wran Government may live to regret its casting aside of departmental and professional advice on the proposed Parramatta Park football stadium. The manner in which the Government approved the stadium has drawn together five professional design bodies as a watchdog committee on the environment. This committee, comprising representatives of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Royal Australian Planning Institute, Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation, Association of Consulting Engineers of Australia and the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, will speak for about 8,000 architects, designers, engineers and planners. As the Joint Professions Standing Committee on the Environment, the body will scrutinise plans for projects which could affect the environment. It will speak out publicly and lobby the Government and politicians with its views on environmental issues. [Excerpt] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 17 Aug 81 p 10] [Article by Joseph Glascott]

ACTU HERBICIDE BAN--The ACTU executive voted yesterday to impose a national ban on the use of chemicals 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T. The president of the ACTU, Mr Dolan, said a decision on how the ban would be implemented would be made by a meeting of affiliated unions to be held soon. He said the ban would not cover use of the chemicals in certain forest areas "or areas where there can be no immediate contact for the general public". [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 19 Aug 81 p 4]

DESTRUCTION OF FISHING GROUNDS--Moreton Bay fish, crab and prawn breeding grounds would be harmed by reclamation work for Brisbane's new international airport, Queensland Amateur Fishing Council chairman, Dr Terry Russell, said yesterday. Grounds at Cribb Island and the Middle Banks would be destroyed, he said. Sand was being dredged from the Middle Banks and dumped on mangroves and mud-flats on Cribb Island to allow runway extensions. Dr Russell was responding to a statement by MLA Mr Ben Humphreys (ALP, Griffith) calling on fishermen to give evidence to the parliamentary works committee in Canberra on the adverse effects of the reclamation work. Mr Humphreys said: "Surely it must be obvious to the Transport Department that you just can't pump 13 million cubic metres of sand from Moreton Bay without its having a harmful effect on the bay or the in-shore environment. "I understand the fishermen are most alarmed at what's going on and they are calling for new fishing grounds to be opened up." Dr Russell said the reclamation work constituted the irreversible destruction of valuable fishing grounds. "These are nursery areas for mullet, flathead, bream, prawns and crabs," he said. "It is too late to reverse the loss of these grounds." Dr Russell said it would be impossible to open up new fishing areas because habitat destruction was not reversible or could not be compensated. "I don't think enough fishermen realise the gravity of the situation," Dr Russell said. [Excerpts] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 24 Aug 81 p 3]

CSO: 5000/7587



## BRIEFS

**AIR POLLUTION ACT**--New Delhi, Aug. 24--The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, which was passed unanimously by both Houses of Parliament in March last, has come into force throughout the country with retrospective effect from May 16. It will cover 20 industries which will be required to comply with the provisions of the Act. The earlier Central Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, is applicable only to States which have adopted it. A few States, including Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Mizoram and Nagaland, have not yet adopted this Act. The industries, covered by the present Act are: Asbestos and asbestos products; cement and cement products; chemical and allied products; coal and lignite-based chemical products; engineering; ferrous metallurgical; fertilizer; foundries; food and agricultural products; mining; non-ferrous metallurgical; ores/minerals/processing, including beneficiation and pelletisation; power (coal, petroleum and their products) generating plants and boiler plants; paper and pulp (including paper products); textile processing (made wholly or in part of cotton); petroleum refineries; petroleum products and petrochemical industries; plants for recovery from the disposal of wastes; and incinerators. Water Pollution Control Boards at the Centre and in the States are entrusted with the responsibility of air pollution control also to ensure the coordinated control of environmental pollution. In the case of States, which have not adopted the Central Water Pollution Control Act, only Air Pollution Control Boards will be formed. Pollution by ships and aircraft is not covered by this Act. Provision has been made for imprisonment for three months or fine up to Rs. 10,000 or both for failure to comply with the provisions of the Act. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 25 Aug 81 p 7]

**NORTHEAST SOIL EROSION**--Shillong, August 23: With the establishment of a research complex of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the north-east region, agricultural engineering has received a considerable boost. One important conclusion reached after studies on soil erosion is that farming systems and other human activities, such as shifting cultivation (jhumming), cultivation on steep slopes using contour bunds, and road construction and urbanisation in the region have resulted in extensive soil loss and depletion of resources. It is stated that the "prevalence of shifting cultivation appears to be the single largest factor responsible for the degradation of land and water resources in the region." Preliminary estimates indicate that nearly 19 million tonnes of soil are lost annually as a result of shifting cultivation. The slow process of degradation has begun to show its effect and many areas, which were once covered by dense forests, now look barren. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Aug 81 p 7]

## MARINE POLLUTION, FOREST DENUDATION POSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 3 Jul 81 p 6

[Text]

**JAKARTA** Bay, from which this teeming city of six million people obtains 85 per cent of its fish, may be dangerously polluted by heavy metals, according to experts.

They fear that mercury poisoning may already be taking a deadly toll in a huge bay whose pollution from industrial wastes is believed to be above normal international safety standards.

Last year, 13 children died in a fishing village of North Jakarta — their deaths blamed by local inhabitants on food contaminated by the bay's waters.

When President Suharto marked World Environment Day earlier this month he warned that Indonesia must take action to avoid repeating the mistakes of the industrialised world which had been forced to spend large sums to clean up pollution.

An Indonesian anti-pollution pioneer, Dr Meizar B. Syafel, has long complained about mercury pollution in the bay area.

Water samples from a river which dumped its water into the bay had shown a reading 62 times higher than the international safety level for mercury pollution, he said.

Samples of freshwater wells and fishponds in the water-front fishing village

where the children died have also high mercury pollution readings, according to the weekly news magazine, *Tempo*.

Industrial waste from chemical factories located along the main rivers that flow into the bay produce most of the pollutants — mercury, cadmium and zinc.

Legislation is now being drafted to force the factories to ensure that the wastes they dump into the rivers are free from pollutants.

Despite President Suharto's call for more stringent pollution control, an Industry Ministry official said such measures will only increase the price of the products. "This is one of the reasons why we cannot not be so rigid in imposing the regulations," he said.

But Indonesia also faces other major environmental hazards.

Large-scale and often haphazard logging operations in crowded Java and the other islands are now being blamed as a prime cause for floods and landslides.

A Social Ministry spokesman reported that about 1,000 Indonesians die each year as a result of floods, landslides, eruptions and earthquakes. Another 2.5 million suffer from the disasters and an estimated 100,000 houses

are annually destroyed or damaged.

In East Java alone, more than 350 people died last month in a landslide when tons of mud and cooled lava slid down the mountainside.

Land erosion is reaching huge proportions in Java where more than 61 per cent of Indonesia's 147 million population live.

Forestry Department officials said the expansion of towns and the rapid population growth had drastically cut forest areas needed to retain water in the rainy season.

According to official statistics, 23 per cent of the island of Java was covered by forests in the early 60s. This area has now dwindled to less than 15 per cent.

Logging and mining operations in Central Sumatra have created another kind of environmental problem.

Tigers and elephants went on a rampage last year and early this year. At least 50 people were reported killed and attacked by the marauding tigers, apparently deprived of their natural prey because of the encroachment of settlements into their jungle lairs.

Hordes of elephants destroyed several villages in Central Sumatra in the last few years when their natural habitat was reduced by logging operations. — Reuter

# GOVERNMENT TO TIGHTEN UP FAST-TRACK DEVELOPMENT LAW

Wellington EVENING POST in English 18 Aug 81 p 4

[Text]

The Minister of National Development, Mr Birch, has begun discussions with Crown law officers aimed at tightening up fast-track legislation under the National Development Act.

Initial talks took place last night on amendments which Mr Birch has said are in anticipation of problems that could arise in relation to the Aramoana aluminium smelter project.

At his post-cabinet press conference yesterday, the Prime Minister, Mr Muldoon, announced the Government's decision to introduce and pass an amending bill to the act this parliamentary session, which has probably no longer than two months to run.

He said it appeared some aspects of the legislation needed to be tightened so that some of the "fringe issues" in development projects were brought within the scope of the act and went on to the fast track procedure.

## Right

Everyone who wished to object would still have that right, he said. But it would be under fast-track procedure in which an objector would go in front of the tribunal and have the opportunity to state his case.

If the objector did not win his case, the project could proceed without the frustration of additional delays by subsequent procedures.

It is understood the impending legislation will cover three areas:—

- New general provisions that will allow additional consents to be granted under the act, for example, land reclamation and the closure of roads.

Normally, road closures are the responsibility of the local authority concerned. But if it was necessary for a road to be closed because the area was required for a fast-track development project this would be considered within the terms of the act.

- Clarification of section 17 of the act which refers to

possible litigation with the Commission for the Environment.

## Court

It is understood that it is possible in terms of the act as it stands for a matter of litigation to go through the normal court procedures and take longer. The amendment would be aimed at averting any High Court step. Any matter involving litigation would go direct to the Court of Appeal.

- More precise definition of phrases used in the act, for example, "environmental impact report."

It is understood that until the nature of an environmental impact report is clearly defined, there can be considerable argument as to whether such a report is what it purports to be.

Sources say a draft amending bill should be ready within the next two weeks.

At this stage, it is not known if the Government intends that it go to a select committee of Parliament for consideration following introduction.

# INTERNATIONAL PLAN TO CONTROL DANGEROUS CHEMICALS BACKED

Wellington EVENING POST in English 1 Sep 81 p 16

[Text] The scheme has been adopted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, but has run into opposition from United States chemical manufacturers.

Mr Robinson, an assistant deputy minister of the environment in Ottawa, wants chemical-buying countries like Australia, New Zealand and Canada to back a mandatory testing programme for all new chemicals.

"For some years now we have had in place the most advanced industrial countries environmental and health tests for pesticides, pharmaceuticals and food additives," he said.

"These are most sophisticated in the case of pesticides. You would have to spend \$US5 million and dispose of 1000 rats to bring a pesticide into the market, but there are about 50,000 industrial chemicals in use that don't fall under any programme, and there are 1000 new ones every year.

"Pesticides are what scientists call biologically active — that's jargon to mean they kill things — and pharmaceuticals and food additives are ingested.

"Nobody argues that we should focus on them, after all we don't want any more thalidomides, but is it appropriate to ignore the other 1000?" he asked.

Four years ago the OECD adopted its programme with standard test guidelines and laboratory practices that could be checked by visitors from other countries, but the United States is still blocking the mandatory plan because its companies developing the new chemicals have philosophical objections to being forced to follow the guidelines.

## 'Passport'

The other countries may agree to the United States opting out over chemicals for internal use, but still hope that chemicals for export will carry the "chemical passport" of complete tests.

Mr Robinson will meet the Minister of Health, Mr Gair, and the Minister for the Environment, Dr Shearer, as well as the commissioner for the environment, Mr Ken Piddington and other senior officials to put his case this week.

Before joining the federal Department for the Environment in Ottawa, Mr Robinson was a foreign service officer, his last post being deputy high commissioner in Wellington. After his official calls he will spend the rest of his four weeks in New Zealand looking up old friends from 11 years ago.

He has also had some experience of the Agent Orange problem, since that Vietnam war herbicide was manufactured on the US-Canada border, and he suspects there was a major leak into the Great Lakes in the early 70s.

Classified as a pesticide, Agent Orange was subject to tests in the 60s when it came on to the market. "I guess it would probably not be registered today, when any suspicion of dioxin is banned in pesticide," he commented.



## WILDWATER PROTECTION BILL INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT

Wellington EVENING POST in English 2 Sep 81 p 5

[Text]

The Water and Soil Conservation Bill, in the hands of the Minister of Works, Mr Bill Young, was not opposed by the Opposition. It will now go to the parliamentary lands and agriculture select committee for submissions and consideration.

The bill, the minister said, had two major objectives: first, the protection of rivers and lakes, where possible in their natural state; and second, to ensure that natural water heated by geothermal energy was covered by the principal act.

Referring to the second aim, Mr Young said clauses in the bill would ensure that the taking of geothermal waters was subject to obtaining a water right. This was important in areas of scenic and tourist value.

"Unrestricted and increasing draw-off of geothermal water by bores may ultimately reduce surface geothermal activity to such an extent that the scenic and tourist features may be severely impaired or destroyed," said the minister. Insisting on a water right ensured public participation.

Other clauses set out procedures for identifying and

preserving in their natural state those rivers, streams and lakes which had wild, scenic or other outstanding natural characteristics.

A two-tier system, Mr Young said, was proposed as between nationally and locally important rivers and lakes. For nationally important rivers and lakes, a national water conservation order was proposed.

It would be an order-in-council made after consideration by the national water and soil conservation authority and an inquiry by the planning tribunal.

For locally important waterways, he said, a local water conservation notice was proposed. These would be prepared by the appropriate regional water board and were subject to appeal to the planning tribunal.

The interests of existing holders of water rights were preserved under the bill.

A national survey, said Mr Young, was nearing completion to establish recreational and other features of rivers and lakes.

It was proposed that the bill come into force on April 1 next year, enabling the survey to be further advanced so the results could

be used in evaluating and considering applications under the legislation.

"The Government, in respect of national significant rivers and lakes, and regional water authorities in respect of locally important waterways, will be able to strike a balance between those interests of the passive user and the interests of the out-of-stream users, seeking rights to take or divert, or dam the water resource," he said.

**'Lipstick'**

The Labour spokesman on the environment, Mr Mike Moore, said this type of law should be introduced by the minister for the environment, not the minister of works.

He described the bill as "a little bit of liberal lipstick to tart up the Government's growth strategies."

It appeared that only those special groups named in the bill could make application to have a river or lake so protected. What about other environmental groups, he asked.

It seemed the minister had the final say in determining a river or lakes protection.

The Government MP for Marlborough, Mr Doug Kidd, said he believed the bill would be welcomed. Previous law had not been strong enough, and this strengthened the environmental emphasis.

**Attention**

The bill also provided for full public participation. It was important to pay proper attention to conservation and to make a bold statement on its behalf in a time of development and growth.

The Labour spokesman on works, Mr Mick Connolly, asked what consultations the minister had held with interest groups on the bill.

Replying, the minister said wide consultations had been held, including with the federated mountain clubs, the save-the-rivers campaign and the environmental defence society.

A wide range of people had the chance to make applications for waterway protection.

If a minister disagreed with a planning tribunal recommendation on protection, he had to report to Parliament within 28 days stating his reasons, he said.

# FOREST PROTECTION, EXPLOITATION REMAIN DIVISIVE ISSUES

## Environment Minister's Criticism

Auckland NZ HERALD in English 7 Aug 81 p 1

[Text]

Wellington

A Government minister has sharply criticised the Forest Service clearfelling policy and its denial that it used napalm in the Nelson region.

The Minister for the Environment, Dr Shearer, said the Forest Service denial that napalm had been used to burn off native forest in the Karama region was "nonsense."

In a speech to the Hutt Valley branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Dr Shearer said there was a "negligible" difference between napalm, used by United States forces during the Vietnam war, and a substance called aluminagel, which the Forest Service said it used.

Both were types of jellied petrol using aluminium soaps as a gelling agent.

"The real issue here is not whether napalm was used or not, but the fact that the Forest Service is continuing

to clearfell and burn native forest," he said.

"I accept that some exotic plantings must go ahead in the Karama area, both to enhance the region's prosperity and to take the pressure off native forests.

"What I do not accept is a policy that destroys magnificent stands of native forest, kills the wildlife in them, and plants this wasteland out in exotics that can and should be planted on other land."

Dr Shearer said the Forest Service management policy for indigenous state forests stated that clearfelling of native forest should only go ahead where no other land was available or suitable for exotic planting.

"Over the past five years, the Forest Service has planted between 18,000 and 23,000 hectares a year in exotic forestry, much of it on land bought from private owners. The 600 hectares at issue in this operation could easily have been developed the same way rather than being

ripped from existing native forest."

"The areas being burnt off near Karama are in a forest park, and they are being clearfelled and converted to exotic forestry, not managed in perpetuity as indigenous forest," he said.

The Minister of Forests, Mr Venn Young, later rejected his cabinet colleague's criticisms.

He said: "We cannot base our growth strategy on water-fern and weeds."

Mr Young, who held the environment portfolio until he was shaved off early this year, said he had already asked the Forest Service for a report on the matter.

"The forest is cut-over forest," he said. "We have got to have exotic plantings on the West Coast to provide the basis for a continuing saw-milling industry."

That had been clearly spelt out in National's 1978 election policy, which had been supported by Dr Shearer, said Mr Young.

## Forest Service Defends Burning

Christchurch PRESS in English 11 Aug 81 p 2

[Text]

### Parliamentary reporter

It is unlikely that more than 15 to 20 millable trees were destroyed in a burn-off of State native forest near Karamaea, according to the Director-General of Forests, Mr G. M. O'Neill, in a letter to the Minister of Forests, Mr V. S. Young.

Mr Young yesterday made public the letter, which sets out and answers points at issue regarding the burn-off, in which jellied petrol was used.

Critics have questioned the use of jellied petrol and its effect on native birds, the waste of millable timber, and whether the burn-off was in accordance with publicly approved forest policy.

In the letter Mr O'Neill said that no more than 20 millable trees spread over 60ha would have been destroyed in the burn-off to clear land for exotic planting. To the layman it would have appeared that some of the species burned off, such as kamahi, rata, small beech trees, and unsound podocarp logs, were useable timber, but they were not.

Timber previously sold under milling contracts from the site had been millable podocarps, red and silver beech, and logs of veneer quality.

The area which had been burned had been logged before 1978. A scattering of small podocarp seed trees had been planted after the logging to encourage natural regeneration. These, and all standing scrub, had been cleared to make way for exotic tree species. The seed trees would have been uneconomic to recover for milling at that time.

Of the use of Alumagel, the burning agent, Mr O'Neill said it was unfortunate that it had become confused with napalm, which had emotive and military connotations because of its use in Vietnam. The two agents were not the same but had similar preparations.

Alumagel had been used for years because it had "added greatly to safety."

Animal life had not been endangered because the fire had been lit and managed in a zig-zag pattern from bottom to top, allowing animals and birds to escape. A "ring" burn would have trapped them.

Wildlife Service officers were convinced that there had been no kiwis in the burn area. The kiwis' preferred habitat was lower in the valley.

Of the Forest Service's compliance with publicly approved forest management policy, Mr O'Neill said that under this policy conversion of State native forests to exotics was possible only in special circumstances. The West Coast met those circumstances, which allowed the conversion of forest to meet regional afforestation goals when other land was unavailable.

The Forest Service had tried to find cleared or scrub-covered land that was suitable in the Karamaea area but had not found any. The planting of cleared land suitable for dairying was not considered in the regional interest because of the growth of the local farming industry.

Small areas of open land existed within State forest in the region but these totalled

less than 100ha and were in small scattered blocks. Road access would have to be provided and the areas would have to be drained.

The special circumstances had been emphasised in the Government's West Coast forest policy, of 1978, in which it had been agreed that the levels of exotic planting in the area would be determined by the need to sustain a minimum level of cut to sawmills.

Further opportunity for public scrutiny of proposals had been given in the "North-west Nelson State Forest Park Management Review." The review was a precursor to the preparation of a new management plan for the forest park.

In the review the principal objectives for Karamaea were to plant out a minimum area of 370ha to sustain an annual cut of 7500 cu m in the Karamaea "working circle" and to plant species and adopt silvicultural systems producing wood of high quality and value.

The review had said that areas of manuka and gorse hill country or pakihi suitable for agriculture were limited and that much of the land for exotic planting would have to be "old cut-over exhibiting little regeneration or future logging areas where low numbers of regeneration of timber species are available prior to logging."

Copies of the review had been sent to many organisations, including the Native Forests Action Council. The council had not made any submission on the review to the Conservator of Forests.

## New Protection Campaign Launched

Wellington EVENING POST in English 10 Aug 81 p 5

[Text]

By inviting concerned members of the public to "buy shares" in New Zealand's native forests at \$2 each, three leading conservation organisations hope to raise \$30,000 for a big pre-election publicity campaign.

The Minister for the Environment, Dr Ian Shearer, spoke at the launching of the venture, to save native forests, in Wellington this afternoon.

Organising the fundraising are the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, the Native Forests Action Council and the Federated Mountain Clubs.

A campaign spokesman said raising this amount of money was necessary for the crucial period leading up to the general election.

Campaign director Mr Guy Salmon said the printed share certificates, designed by Wellington artist Mr Roy Cowan, would remind people that they were the true owners of the state forests.

### 'Bombing'

"The news of napalm bombing operation being carried out in publicly-owned native forests has shocked the country.

"New Zealanders have had enough of the ruthless

exploitation of our native forests. There has got to be a cry of anger, loud and clear".

By the time of the general election in November, the campaign aimed to have commitments from all three political parties to add Waikukupa and South Okari forests to Westland National Park; create a Paparoa National Park near Punakaiki in North Westland; and to legally protect the remaining fragments of virgin state forest in the North Island, he said.

Replying to a parliamentary question last week on behalf of the Minister of Forests, the Associate Minister of Finance, Mr Cooper, confirmed that it was common practice to use a form of jellied petrol to burn off forest as helicopters could be used and there was a greater degree of human safety and control involved. Careful checks were made to ensure that all millable timber was saved and where practicable a recovery operation was carried out to rescue flightless birds in the area.

The simple fact of the matter, he said, was that this type of operation had been going on in New Zealand for about 15 years.

"They are trying to clear some forest to plant some trees, to give some employment to people on the west coast."



## Native Forest Logging Ban Urged

Wellington EVENING POST in English 11 Aug 81 p 1f,

[Text]

The DSIR believes the ideal solution to New Zealand's wildlife problems in native forests would be to stop all logging and allow those areas already logged to regenerate, the Minister for the Environment, Dr Ian Shearer, said.

He was speaking at the launching of the "share certificate" venture for the protection of native forests.

Dr Shearer said progress had been made in the preservation campaign, but clearly, more had to be done.

"My own department, the DSIR, has made clear its concern over proposals to log the Waikakapu and South Okarito state forests, and over proposals to introduce 'coupe' or 'patchwork' logging into the forests of South Westland," he said.

### Birds affected

The department's ecology division said such clearfelling in native forests could mean tuis, bellbirds, pigeons, kakis, and parakeets would be scarce, with birdlife being dominated by insectivorous species.

The division recommended, Dr Shearer said, that all of the Waikakapu and South Okarito state forests be reserved, along with those areas of the North Okarito, Saltwater, and Wanganui state forests which had not been selectively logged.

### Mill supply

"The division also recommends that parts of the Poerua and Waikakapu state forests should be reserved to act as wildlife corridors to the upland forests north of Westland National Park," he said.

"The division puts up an alternative to coupe logging which would ensure local mills a supply of timber until contracts end in the 1990s.

"This would be to salvage all commercially usable timber from the deteriorating stands that have already been selectively logged and simply reserve all the existing virgin forest," the minister said.

"However, the division says the ideal solution to our problems from the wildlife viewpoint would be to stop all logging in the region and allow areas which have already been logged to regenerate."

## Labor Party Policy Released

Wellington EVENING POST in English 14 Aug 81 p 10

[Text]

The Labour Party's policy on native forests, released last night, draws a distinction between milling in the North and South Islands, and promises state support for workers and investors hit by environmental plans.

The Opposition's shadow minister of the environment, Mr Mike Moore, told a meeting here that it is critical to retain the remnant of virgin state forest in the North Island.

But on the west coast the sawmilling industry must be sustained at a level "which contributes significantly to the regional economy," Mr Moore said.

He gave an assurance that people in areas directly affected by environmental policy would not have to carry the full financial cost.

"If it is in the New Zealand interest to create new national parks or extend existing ones then it must be a charge and a cost upon the New Zealand taxpayer, not a cost upon the bloke with a house, a mortgage and no hope of another job."

Rural communities depending on sawmilling had to be protected. If forests were to be saved in the New Zealand interest, "then all

New Zealanders must be prepared to protect the employees and investors involved."

Labour would use the state's available radiata pine resources "where this may be needed to protect sawmill employment and will guarantee the future of the workforce involved."

South Island logging should be reduced by a careful programme tailored to replacement levels, he added.

In the North Island the commercial logging of virgin indigenous state forest would be phased out within the first three-year term of a Labour government.

"Legal protection will be extended to the remaining areas of virgin forest."

The Labour policy for the West Coast offers support for the use of beech forests, "based largely on renewal."

Labour would also "plant sufficient fast-growing trees to sustain and expand the timber industry in the future."

The National Parks and Reserves Authority would be invited to give urgent consideration to any propositions for new or extended national parks and reserves.

If the authority came up with recommendations a Labour government would call for studies to identify

the social and economic impact on the community and resources.

It would also seek submissions from groups and the public on the proposal."

Mr Moore said Labour would recognise the protection of native forests as a matter of national importance under the Town and Country Planning Act, and provide under the act for a zoning system for permanent private open space.

Land so protected would remain in private tenure and would, with the agreement of the local authority, qualify for remission of rates.

Labour would also ensure that environmental considerations were taken into account regarding private indigenous forests when farm development loans were granted.

Mr Moore also said his party would give the Commission for the Environment "integrity and independence by legislation."

The aim was to make the commission like the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "highly mobile, effective and hard-hitting."

The commission, not the cabinet, would decide when impact reports were needed.

"They could widen their considerations to economic and social impact."

## Party Protection Policies Differ

Christchurch PRESS in English 15 Aug 81 p 21

[Text]

Conservationists in Christchurch did not get the promises they hoped for on the preservation of West Coast native forests, when representatives of the three main political parties attended a meeting of the Native Forest Action Council on Thursday evening.

They spoke on what their parties would do as a government to protect native forest.

The representatives were the Opposition Shadow Minister for the Environment, Mr M. K. Moore; National's Selwyn candidate, Ms Ruth Richardson; and Social Credit's spokesman on education Mr Richard Bach, who spoke for Mrs Pat Wojcik, the spokeswoman on environment, forests, and energy.

At the end of the two hours and a half meeting at the Repertory Theatre, the council's research director, Mr Guy Salmon, awarded Social Credit a B for its pledge to protect the Paparoa Range. He said that none of the parties, however, was willing to offer anything on saving the South Okarito and Waikukupa areas.

The council realised the importance of preventing the loss of jobs. Much land not bearing native forest was

suitable for agriculture, said Mr Salmon, but only a proportion of this was being farmed, and future sales of decorative timber did not depend on logging in the three areas.

Mr Moore said that the Labour Party would create a Paparoa national park but would not do this until an assurance could be given to people working in the area that jobs would be available elsewhere. He believed that assurance could be given if Labour became the government.

He said that the available radiata pine forest would be used where needed to guarantee the future of the workers involved.

The logging of North Island native forest would be phased out within the first three years of a Labour Government. In the South Island, the National Parks and Reserves Authority would be asked to give urgent consideration to any propositions for new or extended national parks and reserves, said Mr Moore.

Mr Bach said that if Social Credit became the Government an immediate, permanent ban would be placed on logging in the forest of Maruia, Paparoa, and Ohinetamatea. A 10-year morato-

rium would be put on logging in South Okarito and Waikukupa, to be succeeded by permanent protection, if ample jobs had been secured in South Westland in the meantime.

Mrs Wojcik's vision of a self-sustaining New Zealand included diversification of West Coast industries.

This included further employment in petrochemical manufacture based on Westport coal supplies, sustained yield management of beech in Inangahua and Grey to support sawmilling, furniture manufacture, woodchips and ethanol at Reefton, and an expanded fishing industry, including deep-sea fishing and shore processing at Greymouth. In the Hokitika-Ruatapu farming and exotic forestry would be expanded for both sawmilling and further processing, said Mr Bach.

In the meantime, timber supplies would come from North Westland, and would include beech. The timber from South Westland would be used for furniture, joinery, and veneer in that region, he said.

A telegram from the Values Party was read to the meeting. It said that the party would stop all logging of native forests, and that it fully supported the council.

## Conservationists' Criticism Rebutted

Auckland NZ HERALD in English 17 Aug 81 p 5

[Text]

The survival of Karamaea is entirely dependent on continued logging of native forests in the north-west Nelson Forest Park, says the Forest Service.

Replying to criticism from conservationists of the service's clearing and burning of native forest in the park, the assistant director of forest management, Mr Murray Hosking, said Karamaea would die without its sawmill.

All the timber for the sawmill comes from the western side of the park, a cut of 7500 cubic metres a year.

Mr Hosking dismissed as "a cheap publicity stunt" the roast kiwi stand set up outside the Forest Service's Wellington office last week to protest at the burning of forest near Karamaea.

The burning, using aluma-gel, was part of a plan to convert 600 hectares of cut-over native forest to exotic forest over the next 25 to 30 years, he said.

### Frightened Off

The eventual aim was to grow enough exotic timber — mostly pine — to sustain the sawmill without logging native forest.

Mr Hosking said the burning technique, preceded by clearfelling of the forest, minimised the chances of birds being burned. Most birds would leave the area during the felling or be frightened off by the helicopter used to drop the burning aluma-gel.

The burnt area was not good kiwi habitat anyway, he said.

The Native Forests Action Council, however, has accused the service of "suppressing and ignoring" a report by the wildlife service recommending against the burning.

### Other Concerns

Mr Hosking denied the Forest Service had suppressed the report. It was one of 40 submissions to the service on the management

of the park which were and had been available to the public, he said.

The report had been considered with the other submissions, but other concerns — most importantly the survival of the sawmill — had outweighed the potential threat to wildlife.

Mr Hosking rejected claims by the action council that other areas in the park of less value to wildlife could be used for exotic planting.

The 600 hectares in the Oparara Valley was the only area available other than 80 hectares which were "remote and inaccessible."

Scrubland in the park was needed as pasture for the local dairy industry, he said.

### Regenerating

He agreed that lowland forest — such as the burned area — was the best forest for wildlife, but said that upland forest could not be converted for exotic planting as it was needed to stabilise soil.

The 600 hectares had been chosen because the forest there was not regenerating as well as other forest in the park.

The service intended to keep 30,000 hectares of virgin forest in the park untouched, he said.

### Protect Wildlife

The president of the action council, Miss Gwenny Davis, called on the service to stop conversion from native to exotic forest until draft management plans for the park had been released by the service and the public had had the chance to make submissions.

Only then, she said, could a compromise be reached that would sustain the sawmill and effectively protect wildlife and lowland native forest.

Mr Hosking said he hoped the draft management plans would be completed by the service by the end of the year.

CSO: 5000/9042



## LABOR PARTY CONDEMNS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS

Wellington EVENING POST in English 1 Sep 81 p 32

[Text]

In a joint statement, the Labour shadow minister for the environment, Mr Mike Moore, and shadow minister for constitutional affairs, Mr Geoffrey Palmer, said the defects of the legislation were well advertised by the Labour Party when the original legislation was introduced.

"The legislation was conceived in haste, and its defects are fundamental. Labour will never use the fast-track legislation and will repeal it at an early opportunity," they said.

The Government appeared to have reached "the advanced stages of paranoia" about the possibilities of courts holding up developments.

"A government which has spoken so much lately of law and order ought not to try to oust the courts from their proper constitutional role. Yet that appears to be the purpose of the proposed amendments."

What the Government had failed to appreciate, despite many warnings, was that the act itself created difficulties and ambiguities.

The two shadow ministers said that at the time the National Development

Act was passed, the Government said it was going to review all planning procedures so that they were less cumbersome.

### Not done

"That review has not been done. The result is that for small projects which provide most of New Zealand's employment opportunities, the defects of planning procedures remain."

They said a Labour government would initiate a comprehensive review and consolidation of all planning and environmental legislation impinging upon development.

"We will make it easier for applications under the Town and Country Planning Act, the Water and Soil Conservation Act, and the Clean Air Act to be considered at one hearing.

"If all parties agree, the initial hearing before the local authority will be dispensed with, leaving all matters to be heard by the Planning Tribunal."

Under Labour, in cases of national importance, the Town and Country Planning Act would be amended to

provide that the Minister of National Development might advise the Planning Tribunal that a particular issue was of national importance and that the tribunal should accordingly deal with it as a matter of priority.

### Overriding

However, there would be no provision allowing the government to override the tribunal's decision or limiting appeal to the courts as at present.

Messrs Moore and Palmer said the Labour Party rejected the present Government's response to the inadequacy of present planning procedures in the form of the National Development Act.

It believed that whether or not a planned development represented the best use of New Zealand's resources, it should be a matter capable of debate at Planning Tribunal hearings.

They said that among the proposed changes mooted by the Government, the definition of "environmental impact report" was particularly important.

The Opposition had moved an amendment to de-

fine the term when the act was originally passed, but the Government had voted it down.

"It is important that the definition be wide enough to look at the full impact including the social consequences of the development. We suspect the Government finds the Commission for the Environment a nuisance and wants to downgrade its role."

HEARINGS CONTINUE ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MINING ACT

Fishing Industry Board Views

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 27 Aug 81 p 10

[Excerpt]

The Fishing Industry Board has called on the Government to include all mining activities under the ambit of one piece of legislation.

In submissions today to the commerce and mining committee examining the Mining Amendment Bill, the board said that while above-ground mining was covered by the bill, seabed mining was covered by the Continental Shelf Act.

"It would be preferred if legislation covering all mining activities whether on land or seabed be included in one act, with consistent procedures and practice being followed in the administration of mining land-uses wherever they occur," the board said.

The fishing body welcomed the establishment of a planning tribunal as the final arbiter in mining licence matters and the inclusion of extra safeguards to prevent damage to areas of fishing.

But it told the committee the rights given to holders of prospecting licences should be drawn more tightly.

The rights had been extended to include the erection of buildings, the construction and use of plant, machinery and tracks.

"This fishing industry is not concerned about low-impact, small-scale prospecting activities but more concerned with prospecting licences allowing such practices as extensive bulk sampling, the use of heavy machinery and extensive site excavation, particularly

where these activities were near coastal waters," the board said.

The submissions also sought changes to sections of the bill requiring advertising of applications for licences.

The advertisements should contain sufficient information to enable concerned parties to object, it said, by giving a brief summary of the type of mining operation proposed and its location.

## Farmers Federation Concerns

Christchurch PRESS in English 28 Aug 81 p 18

[Excerpt]

Parliamentary reporter The Mining Amendment Bill retained existing "iniquitous" provisions circumventing consent of landowners to use of their land for mining, the Federated Farmers of New Zealand said in a submission to the Commerce and Energy select committee at Parliament.

Every landowner had the right to require his prior consent before any use was made of his land which would disrupt his own use of it, the federation said in submissions on the Mining Amendment Bill.

The bill provides that landowners should be given three working days notice of a proposed application to a District Court for an entry on to private or Maori land. Under the existing act only 24 hours notice need be given.

If the consent were not given, the applicant should be guaranteed the right of appeal to the Planning Tribunal, the submission said.

However, if compensation and rehabilitation were "ade-

quate," the consent of owners should not be a problem.

The federation sought a tighter definition of prospecting of mining. The bill allowed prospectors to "erect, maintain, and use buildings, plant and machinery, construct, maintain, and to use tracks, and engage in other works."

It wanted direct access to the Planning Tribunal for local authorities which felt conditions recommended to the Minister of Energy for inclusion in the licence had not been taken account of, and wanted the burden of work of the tribunal eased by setting up district bodies merging local and ad hoc authorities to hear small-scale applications.

Although it welcomed a reviewable bond payment by the applicant to the Crown to cover failure to comply with the terms of licences, the Crown should underwrite any shortfall in the bond, the federation said.

Accidents could sometimes arise outside the negligence

of the depositor, and the bond should make good that damage.

The submission wanted local authorities to have powers to levy mining interests a fee based on the quantity of spoil removed towards local social amenities, and powers to levy special rates based on the value of extracted ore, not land or capital value. This would ensure that local residents were not subsidising the special activities of a mining company, or wear and tear on local amenities, such as roads.

## Threat to National Parks

Wellington EVENING POST in English 2 Sep 81 p 12

[Text]

The Environmental Defence Society and the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society today asked for special provision in mining legislation to safeguard national parks.

In a joint submission to the Parliamentary select committee considering the Mining Amendment Bill, the societies said there was considerable public concern at the increasing areas of national parks subject to application for mining privileges.

"The idea that national parks should be inviolate and for ever uncompromised by development is widely accepted overseas," the submission said.

"For example, mining is not normally permitted in national parks in the United States. There is a strong argument that could be put, that this position should apply in New Zealand as well.

In the submission to the Commerce and Energy, and the Lands and Agriculture select committees, the societies said an environmental impact report and audit by the Commissioner for the Environment should be required automatically where a mining provision of any kind was sought in a national park.

The submission also asked for a requirement that adequate public notice of mining applications be given nationally in newspapers.

In addition, the Commissioner of National Parks and the relevant park board should be given full standing to appear as of right before the Planning Tribunal.

The societies supported the repeal of the Mining Act's contentious provision allowing automatic conversion of prospecting licences to mining licences. — NZPA.

## More Local Authority Sought

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 2 Sep 81 p 8

[Text] Submissions to parliamentary select committees yesterday urged that mining, like any other land use, should come under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act.

The committee hearing submissions on the Mining Amendment Bill was told that this might not be acceptable, considering the structure of the bill. But environmental organisations wanted greater local authority and public participation in mining applications, the commerce and energy and lands and agriculture select committees were told.

The submissions came from the Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand, an alliance of 65 national and regional organisations, and Coromandel Watchdog, representing ratepayer associations, residents' environmental groups

and holidaymakers using the Coromandel Peninsula.

The Environment and Conservation Organisations said conflicts would inevitably arise concerning the merits of different land use options, of which mining was one.

As the mines division and the Ministry of Energy were committed by law to promote mining, they were interested parties and should not be the ultimate arbiters in resolving land use conflicts, the group said.

Its submission said that the full provision of the Town and Country Planning Act should operate over all applications on non-state-owned land and water.

It favoured the setting up of a procedure which would provide the public with a channel into decision-making and a forum for the hearing of applications and objections.

The Coromandel group said local authorities, which would have a greater say

under the Town and Country Planning Act, normally had the most appropriate and detailed land use expertise for their areas.

It added: "At the point in application proceedings where the minister notifies local authorities, catchment boards and other affected ministers, the applicant should be required to follow the procedures of the Town and Country Planning Act."

CSO: 5000/9044



## HISTORIC PLACES TRUST WANTS LEVY ON NEW MINING

Wellington EVENING POST in English 19 Aug 81 p 10

[Text]

The Historic Places Trust wants to see an annual levy imposed on all mining applications and privileges issued.

In submissions to Parliament's commerce and energy select committee on the Mining Amendment Bill yesterday, the trust said the levy would provide funds for the trust to employ staff to ensure the protection of areas of historic interest from mining.

The levy, they submitted, should be based on the land area involved.

The trust also wanted to be informed, by the Mines Division, of all mining applications and to be included in the list of organisations notified when mining activities resulted in land disturbance.

They had been concerned in recent years at the increasing impact of gold mining ventures on historic places, particularly in the Coromandel/Thames dis-

trict. Important evidence of pre-historic Maori occupation was at risk from some mining activity.

The New Zealand Law Society welcomed the bill, saying the amendment act would represent a significant improvement over the existing situation, particularly the elimination of the automatic right to a mining licence.

However, they submitted some minor changes to the bill, mainly relating to the provisions surrounding planning procedures and the issuing of mining and prospecting licences.

The society had been advised of instances where mining had taken place under the guise of a prospecting licence, and they suggested that the definition proposed by the bill would not prevent this occurring.

These were the first of more than 200 submissions on the bill to be heard by the select committee during the next few weeks.

# FISHING INDUSTRY BOARD OPPOSES COROMANDEL MINING

Auckland NZ HERALD in English 11 Aug 81 p 8

[Text]

## Wellington

The Fishing Industry Board says it opposes substantial mining operations in the Coromandel.

The board does not favour establishing numerous medium-scale or a few large-scale mining operations in the area.

An economic research officer, Mr Alex Duncan, said there were high risks for commercial fisheries.

Mining made adequate long-term safeguards impossible, he said.

Tailings would be unable to be controlled with a repeat of flooding experienced on the peninsula.

Mr Duncan said widespread failure to restrain tailings could also have a marked and possible irreversible effect on the fish habitat, particularly in the Hauraki Gulf.

## Exports

Increased sediment runoff would harm commercial fisheries through its effect on fish breeding grounds and on the food chain.

The acceptability of New Zealand fish on export markets, particularly fresh and frozen snapper, had been enhanced by emphasising the source of the fish as being from the "crystal clear" na-

ture of New Zealand's southern oceans, Mr Duncan said.

"Even a suggestion in the minds of informed overseas buyers of New Zealand fish that inshore waters could be contaminated with increased heavy metal concentrations could be sufficient to impair export market development and cause inconvenience through increased scrutiny of New Zealand fish exports by overseas health authorities," he said.

## Commitment

It was easy to build environmental safeguards into law but hard to enforce them.

Mr Duncan said it was often difficult to identify a culprit, particularly in an area of intensive mining by several different companies. Companies in an anaemic financial state might be unable to pay fines.

The board calls for a firm Government commitment that no third parties such as commercial fishermen would suffer any loss as a result of mining.

It suggests a Government levy on mining companies as insurance against a sudden calamity such as flooding which could cause widespread damage to the environment.

## OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED ALUMINUM SMELTER CONTINUES

### Court Proceedings Instituted

Christchurch PRESS in English 27 Aug 81 p 4

[Text]

The Environmental Defence Society has filed court proceedings challenging the Environmental Impact Report on the proposed Aramoana aluminium smelter.

The society's executive officer, Mr Gary Taylor, said last evening that the proceedings were filed yesterday in the High Court at Auckland and the Court of Appeal in Wellington.

The proceedings seek a declaration from the Court that the impact report is a nullity because it does not deal with the true significance of the smelter project.

Named as defendants in the proceedings are South Pacific Aluminium Ltd, the Otago Harbour Board, the Commissioner for the Environment, and the Planning Tribunal.

Mr Taylor said the smelter would use all the available surplus electricity. Hydrodams would have to be developed on rivers which were free-flowing.

New Zealand's most beautiful wild, and scenic river would be destroyed to feed the smelter, he said.

"The smelter report ignores the implications of the electricity consumption of the smelter and is so narrow in its scope that it must be challenged."

Mr Taylor said if New Zealand was to have a "think big" strategy, developers had to face squarely the wider environmental consequences of their proposals.

"In our view, the deficiencies in the report are so serious and so fundamental that it comes close to making a mockery of the environmental impact reporting procedures."

Proceedings have been filed in both Courts, as there is uncertainty as to which has the jurisdiction to deal with the case.

Mr Taylor said a decision on jurisdiction was expected in two weeks.

Under the provisions of the National Development Act, the Court of Appeal had to give priority to this type of litigation.

## Pollution Controls Doubted

Wellington EVENING POST in English 1 Sep 81 p 19

[Text]

DUNEDIN, August 31 (PA). — The Save The Otago Peninsula (Stop) group believes that South Pacific Aluminium is not prepared to control fluoride pollution at the proposed Aramoana smelter at the lowest levels the company itself has said are possible.

An information brochure produced by the company stated levels as low as 0.81kg of fluoride per tonne of aluminium produced from the smelter could be achieved, according to Stop.

But the company's environmental impact report states a standard of 1kg of fluoride per tonne will apply at Aramoana.

In its submissions on the impact report to the Commission for the Environment, Stop says the best possible, rather than the best practicable, standards should be imposed on the project.

It also states an annual emission of 6194 tonnes of sulphur dioxide is cause for genuine concern among peninsula residents.

"We, who live on the peninsula, are profoundly aware that several thousands of tonnes of air pollution and dust will be emitted in an area which is now free from any major form of air pollution."

### Visual

Stop is particularly critical of the perspective diagrams in the report given

on the visual impact of the smelter from the peninsula.

Stop says the drawings used are poor and misleading, and use different scales which confuse the actual size and effect of the smelter's impact.

The impact report gives no consideration to peninsula residents according to Stop. The report "reinforces our belief that we are the forgotten, the unimportant, the not-to-be-considered people."

### Life

Stop's submissions detail in some length the quality of life that leads people to live on the peninsula.

"There are already signs of stress within the communities because of the possibility of the smelter. People have long been arguing the pros and cons and while the majority of residents are anti-smelter, in some cases it has led to decreasing interaction between certain individuals and has occasionally even split families."

"Because people see their values and their quality of life threatened, people are opening their minds to the possibility of moving away," the submission states.

Stop says even those moving are affected since the smelter weakens property values on the peninsula, because those who seek a life style there are put off.

The visual, noise and polluting impacts of the smelter will also affect the peninsula as it is used by Dunedin residents, and its

wider role in the tourist industry, Stop says.

It says the consortium's claim that the smelter is unlikely to have an economic impact on peninsula farms does not provide a guarantee to farmers whose livelihood may be in jeopardy.

Stop asks the commission to recommend the consortium be required to install a secondary pollution control system to capture pollutants that escape the main control system and would otherwise leak out of the potroom roof.

It says the potline buildings as proposed are not strong enough to support a secondary system should it be found to be needed later.

Stop is also asking the commission to recommend to the planning tribunal that a committee be established to monitor pollution damage from the smelter and negotiate compensation.

The committee should be financed independently from the consortium or Dunedin City Council and be made up entirely of independent people.



## COAL TO LIQUID FUEL MEANS LARGE-SCALE OPENCAST MINING

Wellington EVENING POST in English 13 Aug 81 p 10

[Text]

If Southland's lignite coal is to be used as a feedstock to produce liquid fuels it will have to be produced from large-scale opencast mines, the technical director of the Liquid Fuels Trust Board, Professor A L Titchener, said last night in Dunedin.

He was giving the Dobson memorial lecture of the New Zealand Institution of Engineers.

Professor Titchener said that unless any major new oil and gas discoveries were made in New Zealand, local production of liquid fuels could only come from either coal or biomass (ethanol and methanol produced from crops).

The board had conducted a number of biomass studies, and Professor Titchener said early indications were that methanol made from crops grown specifically for energy purposes was unlikely to be less expensive than present petrol or diesel.

If production could be integrated with the production

of high-value products, the resulting cost of the liquid fuel may be competitive with that of oil products even at present crude prices.

On coal Professor Titchener said only one country was producing fuel from coal, South Africa. The motive for it doing so was strategic.

South Africa used the "Fischer-Tropsch" technology to get liquid fuels from coal, while the United States was spending large amounts of money to develop other technology.

## Economics

"If liquid fuels from coal are to be economic, the coal must be cheap, and the processing must be on a large scale. These requirements will be met only if the coal is opencast."

Southland and Otago contained promising lignite deposits totalling over 3000 million tonnes. They represented the only known deposits with the potential to produce large quantities of liquid fuel.

"Problems relating to the

exploitation of these coals are by no means insignificant, and many questions will have to be answered before it can be decided whether they can sensibly be used to make transport fuels," Professor Titchener said.

Questions included technical and economic considerations on winning the coal and methods of conversion, as well as the social and physical environmental consequences of a large-scale mining and chemical processing operation in essentially rural areas.

## Studies

The board has let a series of 12 contracts for further studies on the Southland deposits. One contract had gone to a German mining consultant with wide experience in large-scale opencast mining techniques.

"At present we are merely at the first stage of investigating this most important national problem. It is still a moot point whether there is a lignite at the end of the tunnel. But in due course we expect to know."

## BRIEFS

**FORESTRY PORT OPPOSED**—Wellington (PA)—A proposed new forestry port at Marsden Point should not go ahead without further investigation, says the Commission for the Environment. The commission has released its audit of the environmental impact report on the scheme. The Northland Harbour Board wants to build the deep-water export port to cater for the region's increasing exotic timber industry. Forest products would be brought by rail to the port which would also be linked to the main rail system. The commission said proposals for the new port could not be taken any further till its possible effect on the stability and environment of Marsden Point had been determined. "The oil refinery and two thermal power stations are built on sand close to the entrance of Whangarei Harbour. Potential erosion problems must be studied and clarified before either economic or environmental studies can proceed further." Environmental impacts could be reduced if an export port was built closer to its forest resource, the commission said. It said major port construction could be postponed till after 1985 and suggested using existing ports at Opua and Whangarei as an interim measure. This would provide sufficient time for further studies to be completed so location of a new port could be considered in the wider context of a Northland regional planning scheme. In a separate audit of the environmental impact report on railway links to service the proposed new port, the commission said it favoured an inland route. Coastal routes would affect not only farmers and local residents but archeological sites and ecology of Whangarei Harbour. [Text] [Christchurch THE PRESS in English 27 Aug 81 p 16]

**TIGHT POLLUTION CONTROLS**—NZ Forest Products Ltd must report breakdowns in pollution-control systems at its Kinleith plant to the Health Department under a licence granted to the company under the Clean Air Act. Answering a question in Parliament from Mr Michael Minogue (Govt—Hamilton West), the Minister of Health, Mr Gair, said the licence, granted on June 29, contained five main conditions. They included the installation of odour-control equipment on the recovery furnace of the No 2 pulp mill, which started working last year, and a waste-gas control system for the No 1 and No 2 pulp mills to begin on October 31. New chloro-alkalide plants with emission limits as stringent as anywhere in the world were being installed in compliance with the licence, said Mr Gair, and were expected to start work in October. The company will also conduct a technical and economic review of all uncontrolled sources of odorous emissions before September 30, 1982 and report to the department before January 31 on the feasibility of incorporating the discharge from the turpentine plant into the waste-gas incineration system at

Kinleith. Mr Gair said the licence imposed further conditions covering the upgrading of equipment and a requirement to report any breakdowns which could lead to big emissions. [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 27 Aug 81 p 5]

**MARINE PARKS PLANNED**—There are plans to turn more of New Zealand's coastal areas into marine parks and reserves. Speaking in Hamilton yesterday, the Minister of the Environment, Dr Ian Shearer, said that two marine reserves had been set up in the Poor Knights Islands and at Cape Rodney recently. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was now looking at other areas for this. It was also carrying out a review of the legislation in order to broaden the purposes for which marine reserves could be established. Dr Shearer said that nearly 10 percent of this country's total land area had been set aside in national parks and other reserves. New Zealand had a world-wide reputation for preservation of this kind. By contrast, less than half of 1 percent of our territorial waters were in reserves. There was scope for doubling or trebling that without significantly affecting the growth and employment prospects of the fishing industry or the search for oil and minerals. Problems caused by pollution, siltation, and overfishing could be eased by the creation of more marine parks and reserves. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 1 Sep 81 p 15]

**LOW RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS**--Since 1976 recorded levels in New Zealand of strontium 90 and caesium 137, the two most potentially hazardous radioactive elements, have been the lowest since measurements were first taken in 1960. The findings have been released by the National Radiation Laboratory in the 1980 annual report on environmental radioactivity in New Zealand and the South Pacific. From 1976 to 1980 the average amount of strontium 90 measured at nine New Zealand stations did not exceed three megabecquerels per square kilometre. They were the lowest readings since monitoring started in 1960. The highest reading of 133 megabecquerels was recorded in 1964. There were atmospheric nuclear tests staged by Russia and the United States in 1961-62. During French atmospheric tests in the South Pacific from 1966 to 1974 average readings in New Zealand ranged from 9 to 51 MBq per square kilometre a year. The concentrations of strontium 90 and caesium 137 in New Zealand milk in the last four years were also the lowest recorded, said the report. Continuous monitoring had been conducted at five Pacific Island stations since French underground nuclear tests started in 1975. But no fresh fission products had been detected. The report said that levels recorded in recent years were very small and did not constitute a health hazard. The radiation dose resulting from long-term average levels was small when compared with the radiation from the natural background. [Text] [Christchurch THE PRESS in English 17 Aug 81 p 10]

**MARINE LIFE PROTECTION**--Among new fishing regulations gazetted today is protection for an Auckland regional park. The Ministry of Fisheries bans the taking of all forms of marine life from an area off the Tawharanui Regional Park. Extending about two kilometres west from Takatu Pt and 800 metres out to sea, the zone covers the rocky reef areas of the park's northern foreshore in Omaha Bay. "This marine extension to our largest coastal park is a new step for us and will be a great asset," said Mr F.C. Barber, chairman of the Auckland Regional Authority parks committee and the ARA-Rodney County Council combined committee, which is managing the protected zone. He said the zone was not connected with the separate marine reserve at Leigh. "This zone has been established to protect a particularly interesting area of marine life for the enjoyment of park users." [Text] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 1 Aug 81 p 8]

NOTICE CALLS FOR HALT TO WATER POLLUTION

SK022238 Tianjin City Service in Mandarin 0030 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Excerpts] To cope with a serious water shortage and mobilise the people to conserve and protect water to overcome this crisis, the Tianjin Municipal People's Government on 29 August issued a notice on protecting the headwaters of the Hai He from pollution.

The notice states: Hai He is the source of our potable water. In confronting a serious water shortage, all people must work diligently to adopt resolute measures to keep the Hai He free of pollution to guarantee the quality of the water used in the people's daily life and in industrial production.

The notice states: The Hai He, south Yun He, Ziya and north Yun He rivers are designated as water source protection areas. Thirty mu of lands on both sides of these rivers are designated as sanitation protection areas.

The notice states: It is strictly forbidden for any unit or individual to discharge domestic sewage or industrial liquid waste in the water source protection areas. Water used for cooling purposes in plants should not be discharged unless it meets quality standards of surface water. It is strictly forbidden to wash clothes, dispose of rubbish and waste residue, use poison bait to catch fish or swim in the rivers. It is strictly forbidden to stack poisonous, harmful goods or rubbish, or conduct poisonous, harmful operations in the sanitation protection areas. Manure producing and livestock and poultry raising are strictly forbidden. Shacks built for temporary use in these areas must be demolished as soon as possible.

A spokesman of the municipal people's government made a statement on 1 September on Hai He water protection. He said: The notice issued by the municipal people's government on Hai He water protection is another major measure to conserve and protect water. All of us must attach great importance to and conscientiously and strictly abide by all rules and regulations of the notice.

He said: The Hai He is our major water source. It is a cistern for the city's 3.5 million people. If the Hai He river is contaminated, the danger to the people's life and health and industrial production would be unimaginable.

He said: There are two ways to protect the Hai He. One is to prevent pollution. The other is to prevent the river from becoming salty. The river is mainly contaminated by industrial liquid waste, discharge from city sluice gates (shizheng zhakou) and domestic sewage. The river water becomes salty because brine keeps blowing back in. Resolute measures have been adopted to stop brine from flowing back, such as closing the Hai He's sluice and lock gates. However, the lower reaches of the Hai He have already become salty and [words indistinct] the water's chloride content is relatively high. We will strive to control the salt content to guarantee fine quality water, but sometimes salty water is inevitable. Since the beginning of this year, we have adopted a series of measures to prevent pollution. For example, some plants on the river banks have stopped discharging waste water into the rivers. Some plants have adopted water purification systems. The opening and closing times of the city sluice gates have been strictly controlled. Irresponsible disposal and discharge has been strictly checked. These measures have proved relatively effective. However, cases of contaminating the Hai He water have been repeatedly occurring, and the river remains seriously polluted.



INDUSTRIAL POISON POLLUTING CROPS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 28 Aug 81 p 22

[Text] Dumaguete City, Aug 20--The Pagatban river here, dubbed as the home of the rare Philippine freshwater crocodile, has been converted into an industrial canal channelling poisonous effluents to the rich fishing grounds of the Sulu sea, environmentalists here reported.

As a result, farmers and fishermen here have petitioned the government to require Construction Development Corporation of the Philippines (CDCP), alleged owner of the copper mine, to install effective anti-pollution devices. One farmer in the area sued the company because of the damage pollution has wrought upon his crops, experts reported.

Dr. Angel Alcala, a leading environmentalist here, said "all the company needs to do is to build a tailing pond where toxic metals can settle and clean water filtered out into the sea." However, the firm apparently refused to invest in it.

To abate similar problem here, the provincial government has planned to establish an environmental impact review board to assess the factories that will be built in the province. (FTF)

CSO: 5000/4932

POLLUTION IN CANSAGA BAY KILLING FISH

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 17 Aug 81 pp 1, 2

[Article by J. S. Tundag]

[Text] A number of residents in four barangays around Cansaga Bay in Consolacion town, Cebu who depend on the marine productivity of the water of the bay and its vicinity are losing their means of livelihood because of gross water pollution in the area.

This was learned during a public hearing conducted the other day by Consolacion Mayor Emmanuel Pepito in barangay Tugtungan to facilitate numerous complaints from the residents around the bay about odor problems, low catch of fish and other sea foods.

Results from a study undertaken last August 3 to determine the general status of pollution of Cansaga Bay revealed that on the basis of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) analysis and dissolved oxygen (DO) measurements, the water in the bay is heavily polluted with organic waste and wastewater from industries operating around it.

These industries have been identified as Asian Alcohol, Greenhills Farms, Virginia Foods Incorporated and Sandoval Shipyard.

The waste from these industries transformed into black, unsightly and malodorous anaerobic water.

The study, which was requested by Pepito and conducted by the Water Resources Center of the University of San Carlos, also revealed that the pollution may have affected some areas of the Mactan Channel since water from the bay flows out at low tide.

To counter this, the study proposed several alternative solutions to limit the pollution of the bay.

Among these are the construction of a common waste treatment plant, a common biogas plant or a submarine outfall into Mactan Channel via the Tayud peninsula.

Delegations from the affected barangays of Tugbungan, Jugan, Nang... and Tayud attended the hearing to air their grievances. Representatives from the various industries concerned were also present to give their sides.

A spokesman for Asian alcohol tagged by local residents as one of the major polluters of the bay, disclosed that the firm has stepped up its pollution abatement program and that an analysis of its waste treatment program submitted to the National Pollution Control Commission (NPCC) has in fact, conformed to the specifications set by the pollution control body.

However, an NPCC report dated July 16, 1981 revealed that a continuous reddish effluent discharge has contaminated the shallow portions of the bay at and near the outfall of the said plant.

The report disclosed that the distillery has yet to install aerators and that its water treatment facilities were inadequate.

Odor emission characteristic of fermentation waste was also discernible beyond the property boundary of the firm, the report further stated.

Mayor Pepito told the Herald that the pollution of the bay has dated back to the mid-70's.

The town of Consolacion has protested before the NPCC in 1976 and has even entered into an agreement with the alcohol firm for abatement of its pollution of the bay but not all the requirements set forth in the agreement have been complied with, he said.

On the other hand, Dr. Antonio Trasmonte, the town's sanitation officer, dispelled fears that fish caught in these contaminated waters may pose some dangers when used for human consumption.

Trasmonte said that it is only the drop in oxygen levels in the water which causes the fish to die and not toxic substances.

Mandaue City Sangguniang Panlungsod Paterno Canete attended the hearing upon the invitation of Mayor Pepito.

It may be noted that Mandaue City also shares the problem since it borders the bay from the west and southwest perimeter.

A move to adopt the results of the USC Water Resources Center report as the official stand of the Consolacion Sangguniang Bayan regarding the matter was approved on mass motion by the body and will be forwarded to the NPCC for action.

CSO: 5000/4931

## PLAN TO DUMP MINING WASTES IN SEA OPPOSED

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 7 Jul 81 p 6

[Article by Tom Levenson in Dumaguete]

[Excerpts]

PLANS for dumping thousands of tons of copper mining waste into the Sulu Sea have ranged one of the Philippines' largest conglomerates against some of the country's top marine scientists.

The CDCP Mining Company, a subsidiary of the Construction and Development Corporation of the Philippines, produces 15,000 tons of copper ore a day from its mines on the Pagatban River in Negros Oriental, in central Philippines.

CDCP is mainly involved in construction work here and abroad but its mining subsidiary is among the top 10 in the copper industry.

However, the mine also produces huge quantities of tailings containing a variety of heavy metals, among them copper, iron and zinc. Researchers from Silliman University, located near the mine, charge that the tailings have already contaminated the river and nearby seas, and that the CDCP scheme to pipe the wastes offshore will only worsen the damage.

CDCP officials say the mining operations are so essential they outweigh any possible environmental destruction from the waste disposal plan. At the same time they maintain that damage would be minimal.

Said Virgilio Jordana, senior vice-president of CDCP Mining: "The ones creating all the agitation are not directly involved

or concerned in the area. The Silliman people's sense of values and priorities is not correct. They place an undue emphasis on pollution.

"We think we are doing quite a good job in the area," Mr Jordana added. "We have 3,600 people earning way over minimum wage in an area that five years ago was a depressed region."

CDCP now controls its wastes in impounding ponds, which, as Mr Jordana acknowledged, overflows in the rainy season and leaks into the Pagatban River and the sea.

The output of tailings is expected to exceed the capacity of the impoundment ponds in seven or eight years and CDCP plans to build a pipeline that will dump them one kilometre (1,000 yards) offshore.

Silliman researchers opposed to the plan, despite the mine's economic importance, began by checking the effect of CDCP wastes already present in the environment.

Chemist Stephen Lowrie, head of Silliman's research team, said that in the area off the Pagatban River they had detected toxic substances at levels high enough to kill marine life.

"You wipe out all the fish in the sea," he said. "It attacks the base of the food chain. Once you start getting over 20-25 parts per billion (ppb) of

copper the plankton cannot take it nor can some fish and the young fry."

He said his research had shown levels reaching as high as 57 ppb during the dry season in the Pagatban Sea.

Said Mr Jordana: "We have a number of certifications from local fisherman that the number of Bangus fry in the area is not less than it was before the mine began working."

But Dr Lowrie charged that Bangus fisherman were taking one-tenth of the catch they could harvest before the mine opened.

"They got one fisherman involved in trading with them to sign a letter saying there are more fry now," he added.

Silliman scientists checked the effects of a similar pipeline being operated by Atlas, another mining company, on Cebu Island.

They reported that "within the vicinity of the pipeline there were specimens from 30 species but unfortunately all animals found were dead without exception. The seabed was heavily silted over a wide area...and fish life was very sparse."

"It can only be presumed that a similar pipeline in the Sulu Sea would have similar effects," the report said.

It added that the area of the Sulu Sea which the pipeline would use was one of the most important tuna fishing and

spawning grounds in the Philippines.

CDCP officials said the pipeline received National Pollution Control Commission and Bureau of Fisheries approval but added that no environmental impact statement was filed on the project.

"The environmental impact statement is so complicated — the wording is lifted from foreign sources," one official said. "To prepare it would have cost one million pesos (US\$125,000) and taken one year."

"We therefore appealed to a higher authority and were granted a permit without filing an impact statement," he said.

The only area of agreement comes in the assessment each side has of the other.

A CDCP official complained "We feel we are being harassed by the Silliman people. We tried to have a dialogue but we cannot get through to these people."

Said Dr Lowrie: "We are operating on a different wavelength. We have told them what our results show. At the start they did not know the harm they could cause but now they continue to say the same old things they said before."

Mr Jordana: "All we are trying to do is to develop resources and re-employ people in a distressed area." — Reuter



## ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY TO ACT AS PLANNING, ADVISORY BODY

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 22 Jul 81 p 6

[Text]

SRI LANKA has taken the first painful step to ease its dependence on agro-chemical products for its fertiliser and pest control needs.

The Parliament has set up an Environmental Authority with wide-ranging responsibilities to preserve the country's vanishing forest cover, regulate the use of agro-chemical products and charter the government's environmental policies.

An advisory body, the Environmental Authority will function along the concept of a council; its members will be drawn from the various ministries, including Planning, Industries, Highways, Energy, Transport, Health and Tourism.

The creation of the Environmental Authority came in the wake of growing clamour for adequate measures against the dangers posed by agro-chemicals to Sri Lanka's agricultural lands, in particular, and the environment, in general.

Like many developing countries, Sri Lanka had heedlessly embraced the idea popularised by multinationals and proponents of the Green Revolution that agro-chemical fertilisers offered farmers the key ingredient to increased production.

But the price Sri Lanka has to pay for better farm output was beginning to tell heavily on croplands, the forest cover and the environment.

Various concerned citizens sounded the alarm over the reckless denudation of the forest and sought tighter controls on the use of chemical fertilisers, weed-killing chemicals, pesticides and fungicides.

The snowballing movement against the use of agro-chemicals for agricultural purposes became a dilemma for the government equally eager to increase agricultural productivity.

The erosion of the Environmental

Authority seemed the only way to balance the dangers posed by agro-chemical products with the pressing imperatives of increased productivity.

A long-range planning body, the agency will survey and investigate environment-related problems and recommend to the government the possible solutions. It will also advise the government on the possible steps to be taken through both administrative and legislative means to prevent the further deterioration of the environment.

One of the major functions of the Environmental Authority is to educate the public on the need to preserve the ecological balance now threatened by the widespread use of agro-chemicals.

Last year, Parliament passed the Control of Pesticides Act. The law regulates the importation, packaging, labelling, storage, formulation, transport, sale and use of pesticides.

The law hopes to check the unbridled use of agro-chemicals that have been blamed for the fast deterioration of Sri Lanka's forests and the slow but steady decline of soil fertility.

After years of application, agro-chemicals burn the soil, killing its natural nutrients.

Under the law, a Licensing Authority for Pesticides and a Registrar will be appointed to handle the administrative functions of the agency. Another body, the Pesticides Formulary Committee, will be set up to take care of problems related to drugs.

With the establishment of environmental-related agencies, the free-wheeling dispensation of agro-chemical products will be a thing of the past. Under the law, anybody who may want to get a licence for the marketing of any pesticide will seek approval by proper authorities.

The regulation for the sale of pesticides requires that the licensee should provide the government with the name and the address of the manufacturer.

The law also requires that samples of the containers for agro-chemical products undergo rigid testing and the chemical composition of the product be stated on the labels.

Other requirements include toxicological data, information on antidotes and methods of determining the residue of the product.

Two other important provisions of the Act deal with measures to forestall contamination of foodstuffs. Under these provisions, it is illegal to store, transport, sell or offer for sale any pesticide along with foodstuffs or display the pesticide in such a way that it could contaminate foodstuffs.

The Act also declares that it is illegal to harvest or offer for sale any food crops in which pesticides were used until after the lapse of the time limit between the application of pesticide and harvesting.

The Environmental Authority said that once the regulations under the Act are formulated, instruments for detection and monitoring of pesticide level will be acquired.

In the past, the monitoring of pesticide levels in plants was hampered by the lack of sensitive equipment needed to detect the minute particles in pesticide residues.

But now authorities, pressed by popular demand to act on the growing menace to people's welfare posed by agro-chemical products, are moving swiftly to check the peril.

The movement against the indiscriminate use of pesticides started slowly, but now there seems to be no turning back for Sri Lanka. — Dep-thnews



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS IN NORTH BOHEMIA DISCUSSED

Prague PLANOVANE HOSPODARSTVI in Czech No 7 1981 pp 38-42

[Article by Eng Dr Lubos Skoda, State Planning Commission: "Improving the Environment in the North Bohemian Region"]

[Text] For most of the citizens of our country, mention of the North Bohemian Region connotes millions of tons of mined coal, thousands of kilowatt hours of electrical energy, and successful plan fulfillment under difficult climatic conditions at open-pit mines and in transportation, which is the picture painted of this region by television newscasts. A visitor to the basin portion of the North Bohemian Region will remember this area in terms of great expanses of ruined spruce forests, unbreathable air, and a lunar-like landscape. An inhabitant of this part of our nation, however, sees in it a home, where he has found work and where he wants to live permanently with his family, or at least get one started.

Problems connected with the devastated environment, however, affect him intimately, and restrict his full enjoyment of the results of his work. Some people succumb to this unfavorable pressure and leave the area. Unfortunately, migration figures show that so far there are more of these people than of those who move to the area, as the following table shows:

	1971-1975	1976-1979
Region as a whole	-8801	-3411
broken down by district:		
Chomutov	187	1729
Most	-2279	-4256
Teplice	-2453	-2014
Usti nad Labem	- 603	98

It is possible to state with great certainty that environmental conditions, and above all air quality, are to a great extent responsible for this migrational trend (in spite of various preferential measures). As I have noted, different views are possible regarding the North Bohemian Region. What, however, is the reality, and

what measures will be undertaken to stop the negative developments in environmental conditions? I will attempt to express my views on these questions in this article. Due to the limited length and restricted focus of this article, and the unresolved nature of many of the issues connected with these problems, the information presented here must be seen as far from exhaustive.

The North Bohemian Region is the smallest in the CSSR. It occupies 7,809 square kilometers of territory and is the home of 1,163,976 people (as of 1 January 1979). Its population density of 149 inhabitants per square kilometer, however, ranks it among the most densely settled Regions. It is of great importance for the economy of the entire nation, principally due to the fact that it occupies a priority place as the fuel and energy base of the country. More than 70 percent of national brown coal production comes from the North Bohemian Brown Coal Region. Approximately 35 percent of nationwide electrical energy output is produced in the region. It also produces a significant percentage of the total output of the chemical industry (at the Záluží u Mostu CSSP Chemical Factories, the Usti and Labem Corporation for Chemical and Metallurgical Production, the Lovošice Slovak Chemical Factory, and others), of the glass and ceramics industry, and of the heavy engineering industry (the Chomutov VTZ). Despite the great appropriation of agricultural land as a result of the development of coal production and extensive capital investment, agriculture is also important to the region, above all the raising of hops, fruits, and vegetables.

Neither industrial production nor coal mining are distributed evenly throughout the region. They are concentrated to a great extent in the so-called basin regions such as Chomutov, Most, Teplice, and Usti nad Labem.

A sharp rise in the mining of brown coal based on surface extraction technologies, the production of electrical energy by burning sulphurous brown coal in large thermal electric power plants, and industrial production (especially of chemical products) have all served to concentrate negative environmental consequences in this area. These negative trends include the extensive annexation of agricultural land and the liquidation of settlements, a change in the regional landscape through the gradual progression of the recultivation of waste dumps, as well as the pollution of water sources, excessive environmental noise, the gradual death of vegetation, but above all a seriously worsening situation regarding air quality. This is the most common and most serious problem for the environment of the region in question.

For this reason, I am consciously limiting the issue of environmental preservation solely to the question of air quality. In the basin, a whole range of harmful substances from various sources is emitted into the air. These include nitrogen oxides from combustion processes and from the production of nitrogenous fertilizers, hydrogen sulfide and mercaptans from gas plants, hydrocarbons from chemical production, chlorine, hydrogen chloride, and a number of others. The most serious emissions, however, in terms of their amount, are flue ash and sulphur dioxide, which are emitted from the smokestacks of the electric power plants and thermal power stations which burn coal from the local mines. The emission burden on the North Bohemian Region of both solids and gases per square kilometer is extraordinarily high in comparison with the average for the CSSR, as the following 1975 figures indicate:

tons/square kilometer/year	CSSR	CSR	SSR	North Bohemian Region
solid emissions	14.0	16.5	10.0	39.5
sulphur dioxide	22.0	26.8	16.3	118.5

Sulphur dioxide emissions have been increasing constantly since 1970, a trend which we expect to continue because of the starting up of new sources (the Prunerov II electric power plant) and because of the constantly deteriorating quality of the coal being consumed (higher sulphur and ash content, lower heat value). The emission level will peak roughly during the second half of the 1980's or at the start of the 1990's. It is a trend that may be influenced positively around 1990 and thereafter, to the extent that desulphurization apparatus will be installed in several large power plants.

Ash emissions have roughly stagnated and one may assume that they will remain at an acceptable level, provided however that sufficient service and maint provided for the fly-ash precipitators at the power plant units.

Ash and sulphur dioxide emissions in the North Bohemian Region have followed the following trend (in millions of tons per year):

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>
solid emissions	0.35	0.28	0.32	0.36	0.36
sulphur dioxide	0.59	0.80	0.96	1.29	1.25
given the desulphurization of two large power plants					0.75

Emissions of sulphur dioxide are such that its maximum permissible daily concentration (0.15 milligrams of SO<sub>2</sub> per cubic meter) is exceeded on approximately 80 days each year, primarily in the winter months, in the air of the entire basin region and the contiguous parts of neighboring districts (part of the Loun district, the Litomerice district, the Lovosice and part of the Decin districts). On certain occasions the measured average daily concentration has been 2.0 milligrams per cubic meter and more, which represents a concentration 13 times greater than the maximum on the days in question.

It is expected that the number of extraordinary situations in the basin area of the North Bohemian Region will increase in proportion to the growth in sulphur dioxide emissions, especially at times of unfavorable meteorological conditions (thermal inversions of several days duration, and fogs), and that as a result the extent of these negative phenomena will also expand.

Polluted air has negative effects in many areas, above all on public health, forest growth, and agriculture.

Air pollution manifests itself most significantly in the health of children. It has been shown that children from the basin districts suffer more from diseases of the breathing passages, have delayed skeletal development and changes in their blood profile which reduce the defensive capabilities of the organism against disease.

Similarly, polluted air has a negative influence as well on older people. It has been stated in scientific literature that a 3-week stay for a child in an area with good air exerts a positive influence on its health which last for 3 months after the return home. For this reason it is of the highest priority to make it possible for the largest possible number of children from the basin region to stay at "schools in nature" at least twice during the school year, and to see that they receive preferential treatment for vacation in children's camps. The harmful effects of emissions are especially evident on the conifer forests of the Krusny Mountains. The common spruce is unusually sensitive to the effects of sulphur dioxide. The development of damaged forest stands in the North Bohemian Region has displayed a sharply increasing trend which parallels the growth in its emissions. The following table presents the current level of forest damage, employing a five-category classification system for stands of trees (according to damage severity):

Area of afflicted stands (in hectares)

Level of Damage	0	1	2	3	4	total
1960	150,658	18,328	6,395	1,195	57	176,634
1970	122,241	34,854	12,568	3,822	487	173,972
1975	117,476	30,917	17,734	4,277	1,226	171,630
1979	13,126	78,930	39,357	23,474	12,129	167,016

where 0 = nondamaged stands; 1 = lightly damaged stands; 2 = moderately damaged stands; 3 = heavily damaged stands; 4 = dying stands.

The damage to large forested areas is not limited only to the Krusny Mountains and the contiguous areas (the Central Bohemian Highlands), but is already evident as well in other parts of the Republic. There has also been extensive damage to forests in the Jizersky and Luzicky Mountains, which has come about from emissions from large electric power plants in the People's Republic of Poland and the German Democratic Republic.

Agricultural damage is not as severe when compared with forest management. A negative influence is discernible above all in plant production, where crop yields have been reduced significantly in areas affected by emissions. It is estimated that damages to plant production as a result of emissions in the North Bohemian Region amount to about Kcs 150 million annually.

Party and state organs have been concerned with the issue of environmental preservation since the end of the 1950's. In 1960, Government Resolution No 494 was approved (Measures for the Efficient Resolution of the Problem of Air Pollution), which was meant to have nationwide applicability. It directed sectors and enterprises to take responsibility for outfitting operations which produce emissions with equipment designed to reduce them and which reflects the latest scientific and technical developments. The objectives of the Government Resolution have been met only in the Ostrava District, and there only with significant delays. In view of the specific difficulties facing the basin areas of the North Bohemian Region, the Government has adopted a number of other resolutions for assuring the preservation of the environment, which have contained a set of concrete projects, the



implementation of which is directed at the halting of negative developments in the environment, especially in the area of air pollution. It must be stated that the assigned tasks have not been fulfilled completely. This is particularly the case for projects designed to affect sulphur dioxide emissions, even though positive results have been achieved in the reduction of other emissions, above all flue ash.

/In accordance with the conclusions of the 15th CPCZ Congress, the CSSR Government Presidium has adopted Resolution No 252/1976, and the CSSR Government Resolution No 91/1976 regarding the Comprehensive Resolution of the Environmental Issue from 1976-1980 in the Basin Districts of the North Bohemian Region, which contains a set of investment projects and measures aimed at a solution of the problem. An inspection of their fulfillment is conducted regularly at various levels. It is, however, necessary to state that the relevant organizations do not approach the fulfillment of tasks in the area of environmental preservation with the same effort with which they approach the fulfillment of production targets. Most of the tasks have been fulfilled after significant delays, and some are to be implemented in the course of the 7th Five-Year Plan (for instance the desulphurization of expansion gases at the Uzin Pressure Gas Plant)/ [in boldface].

Also, the implementation of several costly investment projects is being considered for the 7th Five-Year Plan, all of which should contribute to a reduction in emissions. The following projects should be mentioned in particular:

- the desulphurization of expansion gases at the Uzin Pressure Gas Plant;
- experimental desulphurization equipment at the 200 megawatt unit of the Tusimice II electric power plant;
- rebuilding the fly-ash precipitators at electric power plants.

It is, however, necessary to emphasize that there will be no significant improvement in sulphur dioxide emission levels during the 1981-1985 period, because such a reduction may be achieved only by introducing desulphurizing equipment for the flue gases at several electric power plants in the basin area. The construction of experimental desulphurizing units at the first unit of the Tusimice II power plant should be initiated in 1983, which means that their influence will not be evident before the end of the 7th Five-Year Plan. As I have stated, sulphur dioxide emissions will continue to increase after 1980. For this reason, it is necessary to provide in an accelerated manner for the implementation of experimental desulphurizing units, and to prepare for the construction of a desulphurizing capacity at additional electric power plant units. These are the only steps which can influence favorably the air quality in the basin area of the North Bohemian Region. An additional factor we cannot ignore is the fact that a byproduct of desulphurization can be sulphuric acid (and in significant amounts), which we now have to import.

Since it is impossible to influence substantially over the short term sulphur dioxide air pollution, so-called compensation measures have increased in importance for the 7th Five-Year Plan. These are measures intended to eliminate partially the negative influences of this pollution on the health of the inhabitants of the affected regions, above all the children. This is a matter of the broadest possible organization of "schools in nature," the indubitable rehabilitation influences on the health of children which has already been mentioned. In addition, these projects are of widely varying character and include:



- serving free, vitamin enriched snacks at the schools;
- preferential treatment for children from affected regions for placement in sanatoriums, children's camps, spas, recovery centers, and for vacations near the ocean;
- priority allocation of vouchers for discretionary domestic and foreign recreation, and for spa treatment for employees from the basin districts;
- discounts on trips to recreational areas with clean air;
- the planting of green areas at settlements.

The assurance of these measures is, above all, the task of the North Bohemian Regional National Committee. Their successful fulfillment of this task, however, will depend also on the assistance and cooperation above all of the central agencies of state administration, the Central Trade Union Committee, and the understanding of the remaining regional national committees in the CSSR.

/Environmental preservation in the North Bohemian Region has the same nationwide significance as the mining of brown coal and the production of electrical energy. The development of industrial sectors in this region will always be problematic as long as a stable work force cannot be assured, and this depends to a large extent on environmental quality/. [in boldface]

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CSO: 5000/3025

# WATER SHORTAGE IN WEST TONOTA REPORTED

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 20 Aug 81 p 1

[Article by Robert Ditshwang]

[Text]

FARMERS living on the western side of the railway line in Tonota are complaining that their cattle are dying in great numbers because of acute shortage of water in the area.

This was disclosed by the Chairman of Tonota District Show Committee Mr R.W. Bogatsu. He is also a member of the Shashe Brigade Executive Committee.

He told BOPA that the matter had been put before the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Water Affairs to install watering points at various places in the western side of the railway line.

The watering points should be near the cattle posts, away from the Shashe Complex.

He pointed out that they were promised by the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Water Affairs a month back that they would be relieved of the bad situation but nothing had been done.

He said that cattle were dying in big numbers during Summer when the pans in the area were dry.

Farmers also appealed to the government, as a temporary

measure to build a dam near Shashe Dam for cattle to prevent them from drinking in the middle of the dam.

Meanwhile the Tonota Sister in-charge of the clinic Mrs G.E. Ontumetse has expressed her concern about the shortage of staff and equipment.

She said this has resulted in difficulties when attending patients.

In an interview with BOPA, Mrs Ontumetse said that in most cases patients wait for long hours without being attended. According to Mrs Ontumetse the clinic has only seven nurses.

She also told BOPA that they intended to renovate the old clinic in the North of the village to relieve patients from walking long distances from their homes to the clinics.

She appealed to the Central District Council (CDC) to provide the clinic with more staff and equipment.

Mrs Ontumetse said that Tonota residents were health conscious. They always consult with the clinic staff on health matters.

## BRIEFS

NEW AL-QASH FLOODING--Kassala, Aug. 1 (SUNA)--Al-Qash river level registered yesterday a surprise and recorded high rise, damaging houses and leaving many people homeless. The recent rise followed torrential rains south east of Kassala and affected al-Qash delta area. The river level reached 195 centimetres compared with 175, the highest level until yesterday's rise. Floods surrounded Waggar [Madalai] and [Matanib] towns and many other villages. Fruits canning factory and the East museum were also affected. Eastern Region governor Hamid 'Ali Shash, Deputy governor and Regional Ministers hurried to the affected areas to inspect the situation. The governor ordered concerned authorities to mobilize all efforts and abilities to put al-Qash river under control and prevent further damages. Militarymen and police and prison forces are currently exerting efforts to stop more flooding and to block water outlets. The situation was brought under control yesterday morning after the river level slightly recorded. Meanwhile the Kassala province's security committee held a meeting and agreed to extend emergency aids to the affected people. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 1 Aug 81 p 1]

FLOODING IN EASTERN REGION--Khartoum, September 10--Torrential rains in Eastern Sudan have left about 1,000 people in El Hawate area homeless and three in Qalaen Nahl area dead, the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) reported. Displaced people were being accommodated in schools and medicines, food and tents were being rushed to the affected areas, the agency said. [Paris AFRICA AFP in English No 2827, 11 Sep 81 p 12]

CSO: 5000/5000

## SAFETY OF ASBESTOS INDUSTRY WORKERS ENDANGERED

Salisbury THE SUNDAY MAIL in English 13 Sep 81 p 5

[Text] **FEARS** are growing for the safety of the asbestos industry's 12 000 workers.

These fears were expressed by the Director of Occupational Health and Safety, Mr Frank Belloiy, in an interview last week. He said: "The split in safety enforcement controls for the asbestos industry between the ministries of Mines and Labour and Social Services is making work conditions unnecessarily hazardous for workers. This is because there is no continuity of enforcement, too many cooks spoil the brew."

Uncontrolled exposure to asbestos can cause asbestosis, a chronic lung disease and other asbestos related diseases, but most commonly mesothelioma a respiratory cancer peculiar to asbestos exposure.

Evidence has shown the major sources of exposure to asbestos are in the primary occupations of mining and processing of asbestos and the secondary occupation such as the manufacture of textiles and insulation.

In Zimbabwe the mining of asbestos dates back to 1920 although the use of asbestos goes back thousands of years.

In this country the industry has grown so rapidly to a point where production has doubled since 1960 and now the country exports 250 000 tonnes of raw asbestos a year. This gives the Treasury an estimated \$70 million in foreign exchange; its value is second only to gold in the mining industry.

**ANTIQUATED**

The Director of Occupational Health and Safety said: "The machinery used in the asbestos industry in this country is antiquated, so that the sources of exposure to asbestos dust are too many."

The chief mining engineer in the Ministry of Mines, Mr Patrick Phiminster, disagrees with Mr Belloiy.

"The mines at Shabanie and Mashaba are showpieces. The control of asbestos dust in work places is the key to the safety of the workers. At Shabanie and Mashaba there are well-maintained systems of ventilation and this is the answer to the problem," he said.

However, Mr Phiminster conceded that controls in the older mines and mills were not so effective, and those would eventually be phased out.

**STUDIES**

Studies carried out in

Zimbabwe over a five-year period 1963-67 by Gelfand and Norton disclosed 39 cases of asbestosis among 8 336 employees.

Mr Belloiy said: "Even these statistics, as staggering as they may appear, are not truly reflective of the health of the people concerned."

"We need a follow-up on the people who are fired or who retire. There is evidence that people have died from asbestos-related diseases several years after leaving work places which handle asbestos or products containing asbestos."

The Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Mines, Mr Christopher Ushewokunze, said: "There is no question of restricting the production of asbestos in this country. The mineral is far too valuable to the foreign exchange earnings of a developing nation such as ours."

"We feel that the safety mechanisms we have in operation are sufficient to provide adequate protection for workers in asbestos-related industries. Improvements have been carried out in the health and safety of the workers. There is really no evidence of people being incapacitated due to their work with asbestos."

## BRIGHT NEWS FOR FISHERIES DESPITE OIL 'WAR'

Nicosia CYPRUS MAIL in English 29 Aug 81 pp 1, 4

[Text] **F**IGHTING pollution is one of the activities of the Fisheries Department and there was a heavy demand on the Department's resources in this respect during last year.

This is brought back to light in the Department's annual report for 1980 which says that the operations to combat pollution which was caused by the sinking of the Swedish vessel «Zenobia» overshadowed other activities.

From mid-June to practically the end of August most of the staff and facilities of the Department were engaged in the «Zenobia» operations, the report says and recalls that the sinking two miles from Larnaca developed a constant leak of heavy fuel oil which polluted the tourist beaches.

The successful operations that followed were coordinated and directed by the Fisheries Department. The operation cost about £340,000 and apart from the oil dispersed about 300 tons of oil were pumped from the ship's hull and handed to the Cyprus oil refinery.

However, the Department carried out most of its normal functions with emphasis given in the planning of the new station which is to be built for work on marine aquaculture.

Experimental work on aspects of marine farming has started in cages in Paphos and in Nicosia in closed systems. (Species such as sea bass, sea bream and shrimps are being

experimented with).

Development work on sponge fishing was also intensified with good results.

In its section about the fishing industry the report says that fish and sponge fishery production in 1980 was 1,304 tons — worth about £1.9 million.

There was a tendency in the year for diversification of production with increases in the distant waters trawl fishing and in sponge fishing.

«Health trends» were noticed in the swordfish fishery and

trout farming. Local demand for swordfish is increasing and the fish is served regularly in many hotels and restaurants and demand for trout has also increased for both fresh and smoked products and the supply could not meet demand at all times.

The turtle project and snail culture schemes were also continued during the year.

During the year 45 nests with 3,250 eggs of turtle were hatched under complete protection. Most of them were transplanted while some control «wild» nests were monitored.



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